

February 6, 1976

is the worst thing that ever happens to you, it won't be much. Members of the Legislature, I know that 32 of you have signed this Resolution. I, also, know that, of course, I think, of course, it will pass. I am in favor that Congress quit borrowing money. I wish to point out to you today what this Legislature does. We are inconsistent. Yesterday, you had a Resolution which caused Congress, if it is taken seriously, even though it may be needed in the State of Nebraska and other subdivisions, asking them to spend money. The other day you had a Resolution before you that said, please, federal government, in the name of economy, do not close post offices and that sort of thing. You all know the situation on the post office and they have got to make some economies or do something because the federal government this is not paying. Therefore, this Legislature by a vote says do not economize on that debate that day. Do not economize. So I would like to point out to this Legislature that we should be consistent on these things, not one day or two days, pass resolutions causing Congress to spend money and then come along with one that says, please, do not. I think we have got to make a choice here. Now we had a resolution similar to this several years ago and I think possibly Senator Burbach and I are the ones that would remember it. I think he does. Anyhow it was introduced by Senator Simmons that said Nebraska can stand on its own feet. We do not want federal money and that one passed in this Legislature at that time. We had a man by the name of Kerwin, I think it was, who they called the "ditchdigger" and he was the head of Congress on the public works and he wrote back to Nebraska and we will see that you don't get any, since you do not want any federal funds, I will see that you don't get any, and he did, and we had all these irrigation projects and things like that to get approved by the State of Nebraska. That was really a smart vote. Now last session, we had a resolution in here, as I recall, for the federal government to participate in a Loup irrigation project and the Norden dam and so forth which causes federal appropriations, yet we do just the opposite today. We are going to have to make up our mind. Now I am not going to talk long on this thing but I want to point out one other thing and I submit it to each one of you there is a question that if you call a federal constitutional amendment, convention, which there is only been one in the history of the United States, that that convention, and there is reasonable doubt that they have to stick to just the one item. They could rewrite the whole federal Constitution and I think that is dangerous and I don't think you want that in the bill and I think you had better give consideration of at least taking that out of the bill if you are going to pass it, and let Congress submit a constitutional amendments to the Legislature for their ratification or disapproval. I think this one in there that we have is dangerous and I don't think we should take that chance. Of course, the people that testified on this bill for it were willing to take that chance but I am a little bit scary